

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended). 1. A compound containing carbodiimide units and carboxyl or carboxylate groups (compound V), derived from

- a) aliphatic or araliphatic C₄ to C₂₀ polyisocyanates (component a)
 - b) amino carboxylic acids or amino carboxylic salts (component b) and
 - c) ~~if desired~~ optionally, further compounds which carry groups able to react with isocyanate groups in an addition reaction (component c)
 - d) ~~if desired~~ optionally, other isocyanates (component d),
- the carbodiimide units deriving essentially exclusively from the isocyanate groups of component (a).

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The compound (V) as claimed in claim 1, containing from 200 to 2000 mmol/kg of carboxyl or carboxylate groups, based on the weight of the compound.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The compound (V) as claimed in claim 1, wherein component (a) comprises hexamethylene diisocyanate or 1,3-bis(1-methyl-1-isocyanatoethyl)benzene.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The compound (V) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the amino carboxylic acids and/or amino carboxylic salts comprise α - or β -amino carboxylic

acids, or the Michael adducts of diprimary diamines with α,β -unsaturated carboxylic acids or carboxylic salts.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) A The compound (V) as claimed in claim 1, wherein component (c) comprises aromatic compounds, aliphatic compounds or araliphatic compounds, the araliphatic compounds carrying polyalkylene oxide groups ~~if desired~~ optionally, said compounds having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, the count of carbon atoms (not including the carbon atoms of the polyalkylene oxide groups), and having at least one functional group selected from the group consisting of secondary amino group, primary amino group and alcoholic hydroxyl group.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound (V) as claimed in claim 1, which comprises:

- I. preparing carbodiimides having terminal isocyanate groups by carbodiimidizing some of the isocyanate groups of component (a), and
- II. reacting the isocyanato-terminal compounds prepared in step I with component (b) and, ~~if desired~~ optionally, with components (c) and (d).

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) A The mixture of a compound (V) as claimed in claim 1 and an aqueous dispersion comprising a polymer (P).

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) A The mixture as claimed in claim 7, wherein the polymer (P) carries carboxyl groups.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) A The mixture as claimed in claim 7, wherein polymer (P) comprises a polyurethane (PII) synthesized from

IIa) diisocyanates having 4 to 30 carbon atoms,

IIb) diols of which

IIb1) from 10 to 100 mol %, based on the total amount of the diols (IIb), have a molecular weight of ranging from 500 to 5000, and

IIb2) from 0 to 90 mol %, based on the total amount of the diols (IIb), have a molecular weight of ranging from 60 to 500 g/mol,

IIc) monomers different than the monomers (IIa) and (IIb) and containing at least one isocyanate group or at least one isocyanate-reactive group, and further ~~carrying~~ having at least one hydrophilic group or potentially hydrophilic group, thereby rendering the polyurethanes dispersible in water,

IId) ~~if desired~~ optionally, further polyfunctional compounds different than the monomers (IIa) to (IIc) and having reactive groups which comprise alcoholic hydroxyl groups, primary or secondary amino groups or isocyanate groups, and

IIe) if desired, monofunctional compounds different than the monomers (IIa) to (IId) and having a reactive group which comprises an alcoholic hydroxyl group, a primary or secondary amino group or an isocyanate group.

Claim 10. ((Currently Amended) A The mixture as claimed in claim 7, wherein polymer (P) comprises a polymer (PIII) synthesized from

IIIa) from 30 to 99.9 % by weight of principal monomers selected from the group consisting of C₁ to C₂₀ alkyl(meth)acrylates, vinyl esters of carboxylic acids containing up to 20 carbon atoms, vinylaromatic compounds having up to 20 carbon

atoms, ethylenically unsaturated nitriles, vinyl halides, and aliphatic hydrocarbons having 2 to 8 carbon atoms and 1 or 2 double bonds,

IIIb) from 0 to 20 % by weight of a carboxylic acid having one olefinic double bond, and

IIIc) from 0 to 20 % by weight of free-radically polymerizable monomers different than (IIIa) and (IIIb).

Claim 11. (Previously Amended) An article adhesively bonded or coated with a mixture as claimed in claim 7, or a textile impregnated with said mixture.

Claim 12. (New) The compound (V) as claimed in claim 2, containing from 500 to 1800 mmol/kg of carboxyl or carboxylate groups, based on the weight of the compound.

Claim 13. (New) The compound (V) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the proportion of carbodiimide groups ranges from 0.05 to 8 groups, based on the weight of the compound.

Claim 14. (New) The compound (V) as claimed in claim 13, wherein the proportion of carbodiimide groups ranges from 0.1 to 5 groups, based on the weight of the compound.